

BLUES DROP TWO MORE POINTS AT DULWICH

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who scored more goals than any other team when winning last season's Rothmans Isthmian League Division One championship, dropped another two points in their bid to retain their title, when held to a goalless draw by Dulwich Hamlet at Champion Hill on Saturday.

This was the Blues' second successive draw and they must start stringing a few victories together if they are to keep in the hunt. Against Hayes in mid-week, it was the defence that let them down, but on Saturday their forwards failed to find the net in a drab display.

Wycombe's defence, with the cool Alan Phillips in the side for the injured Dave Bullock, looked sound. But the Blues' are losing their way in mid-field, where they gave yet another undistinguished display.

The Wycombe management must be hoping that Dave Alexander, the former Lincoln City player, whom they signed on recently, will be allowed to play before too long. At present he is waiting for the necessary permit from the F.A.

He did not have the happiest of games when playing for

most problems, but his two accomplices both had off-days.

At the back Phillips, having only just recovered from ligament trouble, gave a masterful performance, which appeared to settle the whole Wycombe defence after their somewhat harrowing experience against Hayes.

Dulwich H. O, Wycombe W. O Report by MICHAEL KNOX

Wycombe in a pre-season friendly against Witney Town but at least he showed a willingness to move forward — something that was severely lacking at Champion Hill.

With this lack of support from mid-field, it was hardly surprising the forward-line of Keith Searle, Steve Perrin, Tony Horseman — in for Dylan Evans — failed to make much impression on a strong defence superbly marshalled in the centre by Peter Smith. Searle, with some neat control caused

Gary Hand gave yet another solid display at left back, and his overlapping runs and crosses were a useful supplement to the attack. Goalkeeper John Maskell, playing with great confidence, did all that could be expected of him.

Dulwich opened briskly on a pitch that was a little soft on top after heavy rain earlier in the week, and went close to scoring in just the second minute.

After appearing to control the ball with his hand, the hard working Ken Jelly found himself

with a clear opening, but he missed his shot and the ball was cleared for the first of their four corners. Wycombe meanwhile forced 10 — a sign of territorial superiority.

There was no set pattern to the play, with one side and then the other on the attack. Headers from Searle and Keith Mead, which forced saves at one end, were matched by Trevor Bladon's flick and a fine shot by Jelly at the other.

Searle gave Eric Allinson a real roasting in the early stages and Dulwich were forced to switch full-backs as a result. Kenny Baker then had the task of marking Searle and was by no means 100 per cent successful.

But Dulwich' fallibility on the wings contrasted with their strength in the middle of the back, where Smith and Ken Grose cut out a number of crosses from the dangerous Searle. Little was seen of Mick Holifield until he burst on the scene just before the interval. Following a neat one-two with Horseman, he fired in a low shot, which was turned round a post by Alan Thomas.

Dulwich's centre-forward John Baker, a dangerous player at any time, was kept quiet by his former Hendon teammate Phillips and he threatened only once — mid-way through the first half, when he slammed a powerful shot inches wide of a post, with Maskell stranded.

Although Reardon looked out of touch in the middle, the visitors continued to press after the break. Howard Kennedy fired just wide with a typical long range effort, while Dulwich's Smith headed Gary Hand's dangerous cross just past his own post.

The unhappy Allinson was replaced on the hour by Charlie Richardson, who moved into mid-field, while Tommy McCready switched to the defence. Richardson was instrumental in bringing about a Dulwich rally.

He put through John Baker, who hit the side netting with a clear shot and immediately passed to Jelly, who for the first and only time found the Wycombe defence split. He raced through the gap, only to be thwarted by Maskell, who rushed off his line to prevent danger.

In an attempt to snatch victory, the blues rallied and Horseman saw a shot blocked during a goalmouth melee in the last minute. So they had to settle for one point, which although good enough for most sides at Dulwich, was not adequate for a team looking to retain their title.

DULWICH HAMLET: A. Thomas; K. Baker, E. Allinson (sub: C. Richardson 60 mins), T. McCready, K. Grose, P. Smith, T. Bladon, K. Jelly, J. Baker, D. Barker, F. Pudney.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, G. Hand, K. Mead, A. Phillips, T. Reardon, S. Perrin, H. Kennedy, K. Searle, M. Holifield, A. Horseman. Sub: Mackenzie (not used).

Referee: D. V. Reeves.

ROTHMANS ISTMHIAN LEAGUE Division One

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | pts | CD |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----|
| L'head | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 233 | 1429 | 30 | |
| Ilford | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 32 | 1829 | 20 | |
| Enfield | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 218 | 828 | 30 | |
| Wycombe | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 221 | 1125 | 10 | |
| B'S'ford | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 1625 | 00 | |
| Clapton | 12 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 1824 | 120 | |
| Sutton | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 1722 | 10 | |
| Dagenham | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 120 | 521 | 00 | |
| Dulwich | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 1720 | 20 | |
| Tooting | 9 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 1118 | 30 | |
| Hendon | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 20 | 2718 | 20 | |
| W'stow | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 1717 | 30 | |
| Barking | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 19 | 1515 | 10 | |
| Slough | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 1813 | 10 | |
| Woking | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 1710 | 30 | |
| Hayes | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 2510 | 90 | |
| Kingston | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 1510 | 10 | |
| Walton | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 14 | 3810 | 20 | |
| L'store | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 30 |
| Oxford | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 9 | 20 |
| Hitchin | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 22 | 8 | 20 |
| Bromley | 12 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 27 | 3 | 20 |

C — Cautions (1 pt); D — Dismissals (4 pts).